

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-12, 15-18, 25 and 26 will have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. In view of the herein contained remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection together with an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 12 and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over MALEK (U.S. Patent No. 4,915,498) in view of YAHAV et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,057,909) in view of NORITA et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0137674). The Examiner further rejected claims 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over MALEK in view of YAHAV et al. in view of NORITA et al. as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of ROBERTS (U.S. Patent No. 5,541,654).

By the present Response, and without in any manner acquiescing in the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, Applicant has cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter, claims 12, 15-18, 25 and 26. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejections have been rendered moot.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections together with an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

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Applicant notes that the status of the present application is after Final Rejection and that an Applicant does not have a right to amend an application once a Final Rejection has been issued. Nevertheless, since Applicant, by canceling all of the rejected claims, has clearly placed the application into condition for allowance, entry of the present amendment as being in full accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully submitted to be appropriate.

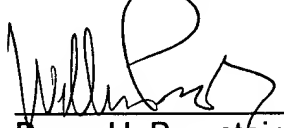
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so. Applicant has, without prejudice or disclaimer, cancelled all of the rejected claims.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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